

# Alien Cover-Up?

A rancher heard a loud crash. The air force came to investigate. And people accused the government of hiding the facts about the crash that put Roswell, New Mexico, on the UFO map.

Ever since that night of July 2, 1947, Roswell has been associated with aliens. And the town seems okay with that. It is crawling with UFO stuff. There is the International UFO Museum and Research Center. Every July, Roswell hosts the annual UFO Festival, which includes choosing the Miss UFO Festival beauty queen. You can eat at the Crashdown Café, where a fake UFO is sticking out of the side of the building.

The United States Air Force was said to have first announced that their men had found debris from an alien spacecraft at the crash site. Then the story changed—it was not a spaceship but simply a high-altitude weather balloon gone astray.



Headline for July 2, 1947

People also believed that the government had captured aliens and was holding them in captivity. Government officials denied that claim. Any potential "aliens," they explained, were probably parachute test dummies.

People who were there the night of the crash said that the government bribed them to hush up about what they knew. The official position of the U.S. Air Force is that there never was any cover-up.

But on the morning of July 8, 1947, The Roswell Daily Record headline said, "Air Force Captures Flying Saucer on Ranch in Roswell Region." And things have never been the same in Roswell. ■

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